

**Date: FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2003 Re: City of Augusta, GA Assessment Grant for \$200,000**

EPA has selected the City of Augusta for a brownfields assessment grant. The city intends to use grant funds to perform environmental site assessments on abandoned properties in the disadvantaged, predominantly minority Hyde Park neighborhood. Grant funds also will be used for outreach activities, reuse planning, and to expand the existing geographic information system (GIS) brownfields inventory.

As part of EPA's ongoing efforts to promote economic revitalization while safeguarding the environment and public health, EPA Administrator Christie Whitman today announced \$73.1 million in Brownfields funds for a variety of different grants made available from the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. EPA announced that 176 applicants were selected to receive awards. Applications came from communities in 37 states as well as seven tribes.

In January 2002, President Bush signed into law the Brownfields Revitalization Act, which authorizes up to \$250 million in funds annually for Brownfields grants, including up to \$50 million for the assessment and cleanup of low-risk petroleum contaminated sites. Brownfields are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

"These grants will help turn neighborhood eyesores into community assets, restoring hope and creating opportunity for the people who live nearby," Whitman said. "From the signing by President Bush of landmark Brownfields legislation last year, to the more than doubling of funds made available for Brownfields reclamation, this Administration has proven its commitment to the environmental cleanup and economic revitalization of our nation's communities. Every acre of reclaimed Brownfields saves 4.5 acres of greenspace, and every greenspace created, on average, has doubled the value of surrounding properties."

The Brownfields program encourages redevelopment of America's 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites. Redevelopment approaches have included the conversion of industrial waterfronts to river-front parks, landfills to golf courses, and rail corridors to recreational trails. Currently, more than 44 different Brownfields-to-"greenspace" projects (such as parks, trails and nature preserves) are in various stages of completion. The Brownfields program provides funding incentives, feasibility tools, and individual grants up to \$1,000,000 to help States, tribes, communities and other organizations prevent, assess, safely clean up, and reuse Brownfields. EPA's Brownfields assistance has leveraged more than \$4.6 billion in private investment, helped create more than 20,000 jobs and resulted in the assessment of more than 4,000 properties.

For more information about your community's Brownfields grant, please contact Dave Ryan at EPA at 202-564-7827 or write [ryan.dave@epa.gov](mailto:ryan.dave@epa.gov).

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs